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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Welzow Airfield

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 11 September 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. After 9 August 1953, no VPL soldiers were seen at Welzow airfield and in the town of Welzow. On the morning of 9, 11, 12 and 15 August, one train each arrived at the airfield. These trains carried about 500 Soviet air force personnel, trucks, radio trucks, jeeps, billeting equipment, 40 to 50 aircraft entrance ladders painted red, a number of 4-wheeled carts about 2.5 meters wide and 2 meters long, some fuel containers and a sizeable number of empty crates each about 200 x 120 x 90 cm. Unloading operations were supervised by a Soviet air force lieutenant colonel who was previously observed at the field. Jeeps were seen.

2. On 12 August, 22 to 24 jet fighters parked between runway and eastern taxiway, a twin-engine plane, 2 biplanes and a single-engine low-wing monoplane. There was no flying. From 1 to 7 p.m. on 26 August 1953, on the northeastern side of the field 42 to 45 jet fighters and 2 single-engine low-wing monoplanes. Weather was 2/10 overcast with good visibility. At 1 p.m., there was air activity by MiG-15s, which took off individually at large intervals. A MiG-15 which towed an air sleeve was seen aloft. The air sleeve was attacked by individual MiG-15s which approached sideways from the rear. No firing was heard. About 5 p.m., two flights and an element of two planes took off within a period of about 20 seconds. The planes landed individually.

there was no change in the occupation of the field. MiG-15s made individual flights in cloudy weather.

3. About 4 p.m. on 12 August, a train arrived on the spur track of the airfield. The train included several flatcars loaded with trucks and 10 to 12 gondola cars loaded with billeting equipment. a similar train had arrived at the field already the morning of 12 August. 1

4. On 12 August, 10 to 15 trucks and 8 AA guns, probably of 37-mm caliber west of the multiple road junction near the old flight control station. About 200 meters south of this point there were 7 new 2-story billeting buildings, of which 4 were completed while the remainder were still under construction. On 27 August, at least 150 motor vehicles, most of them trucks, and 16 artillery pieces of a caliber from 30 to 40 mm at the parking site west of the old flight control station. Construction work on the quartering buildings continued.

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5. [] two radio trucks 200 to 250 meters north of the railroad line, in the extension of the runway. South of the railroad line in the extension of the runway, there was a metal tripod about 150 cm high mounting a spotlight 50 to 60 cm in diameter. The spotlight looked toward the northeast and was fitted with several plates or disks. A cable lead from the spotlight to the airfield.
6. Motor vehicles observed at the field []
7. On 13 August, MiG-15s practiced diving over the landing field, winging over to the left. About 6:30 p.m., a MiG-15 with an attached air sleeve which was being supported by two soldiers took off. Immediately afterwards, three MiG-15s took off and attacked the air sleeve individually.
8. At 5 p.m. on 13 August, [] two empty trains at Welzow railroad station. Northeast of the runway and at the western exit of Welzow, [] a landing beacon and a truck mounting a searchlight by its side. The landing beacon near Petershain had recently been surrounded by a fence and fitted with a watch tower. Construction work in the eastern portion of the field near the spur track continued. Four 2-story buildings were completed, others were under construction. One boring frame each was seen at the northeastern and southwestern ends of the runway. Groups of 20 workers each were observed working there.
1. [] Comment. It is believed that two fighter regiments were stationed at Welzow airfield during the reported period. About 20 July, the Soviet instruction regiment employed for the training of the VPL air force moved from Cottbus to Welzow. [] Between 10 and 13 August, a fighter regiment previously stationed in Koethen, also moved to Welzow. This transfer was also indicated by several rail shipments dispatched from Koethen to Welzow. It is believed that the latter regiment was not assigned to the fighter division in Merseburg. [] [] [] [] []
- It may therefore be assumed that these planes were shipped from the USSR to Cottbus in April. Previous information on military rail shipments indicate that the former Soviet instruction regiment charged with the training of the VPL air force moved from Welzow to Pustnitz in late August 1953.
2. [] Comment. This statement probably refers to medium AA guns of 37-mm caliber which are generally employed for the protection of airfields occupied by fighter units.
3. [] Comment. The construction of permanent quarters at Welzow airfield had lagged behind construction on run-and taxiways. It appears that this delay is now being caught up with.

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